

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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DRAFTED BY EB/OT/STA:MNAYOR:JH

APPROVED BY EB/OT/STA:WCLARK, JR.

CUSTOMS:AFRANCIS

EUR/WE:RDOTSON (SUBS)

EUR/CE:RCASAGRANDE (SUBS)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS STATE 201061

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, BE, AU

SUBJECT: AUSTRIAN PROPOSAL TO MOVE CUSTOMS COOPERATION
COUNCIL

1. MR. EMILE MASSA COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR OF EMBASSY OF
BELGIUM CALLED TO EXPRESS CONCERN OF THE GOVERNMENT OF
BELGIUM WITH AUSTRIAN INVITATION TO TRANSFER OPERATIONS OF
CUSTOMS COOPERATION COUNCIL (CCC) TO VIENNA WHERE THERE IS
CURRENTLY BEING DEVELOPED LARGE COMPLEX TO HOUSE NUMBER OF
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. MASSA STATED THAT THE CCC
HAS OPERATED OUT OF BRUSSELS FOR LAST FOUR OR FIVE
YEARS AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD OBVIOUSLY WANT IT TO
REMAIN THERE. HE PROCEEDED TO MENTION SOME OTHER REASONS
FOR NOT MOVING THE CCC; NAMELY, THAT ENGLISH AND FRENCH ARE
THE TWO OFFICIAL LANGUAGES OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THUS A
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FRENCH SPEAKING CITY IS BETTER; THAT MANY OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE BASED IN BRUSSELS; AND THAT A NUMBER OF PERSONNEL PROBLEMS WOULD BE INCURRED IN ANY MOVE.

2. MASSA WISHED TO KNOW WHAT THE POSITION OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT ON THIS MATTER WAS. WILLIAM CLARK CHIEF, STA

EXPLAINED THAT SINCE PROPOSAL IS A NEW ONE AND NONE OF ITS DETAILS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE TO THE U.S., NO FORMAL POSITION HAS YET BEEN DEVELOPED. HE TOOK NOTE OF THE BELGIAN ARGUMENTS FOR CCC REMAINING IN BRUSSELS AND SAID THAT THEY WOULD BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION IN THE COURSE OF DEVELOPING U.S. POSITION.

3. MASSA SAID THAT A WORKING PARTY OF THE CCC COMMISSION IS TO MEET SOMETIME NEXT MONTH TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF COUNCIL PREMISES. AS THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY

REPRESENT THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FIVE LARGEST CONTRIBUTORS TO THE CCC THE GOVERNMENT OF BELGIUM IS QUITE INTERESTED IN THEIR POSITIONS. CLARK SAID THAT MASSA'S INTERVENTION WAS TIMELY, SINCE THE U.S. HAS NOT AS YET

ADDRESSED THE QUESTION, AND THAT WE WOULD KEEP HIM INFORMED, TO THE EXTENT POSSIBLE, ON THE STATE OF OUR DELIBERATIONS.

4. FYI: G.R. DICKERSON, DEPUTY COMMISSIONER OF CUSTOMS WILL REPRESENT U.S. AT UPCOMING WORKING PARTY MEETING IN BRUSSELS SEPTEMBER 9-10. FURTHER INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE ON THE PROPOSAL AFTER THIS MEETING. ROBINSON

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